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IMB, Campus Crusade set joint agreement

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Leaders of Campus Crusade for Christ and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) have penned an agreement to combine the enthusiasm of one of the world's largest Christian student movements with the church-planting expertise of Southern Baptist missionaries.

They say the new level of cooperation will result in an era of tremendous growth in unreached areas.

"We're entering a new era

Christ. "It is a necessity for us to find partners."

Marks led a team of Campus Crusade leadership to Richmond, Va., Nov. 5 for a daylong meeting with IMB leaders. As a result, IMB missionaries will integrate into their local church-starting efforts college graduates in overseas countries who had been involved with Campus Crusade during their schooling.

IMB President Jerry Rankin called the agreement "one of the most significant evangelistic developments in recent years."

IMB representatives already cooperate with Campus Crusade to produce and use the evangelistic film, "Jesus," estimated to have been viewed by more than 1 billion people and to have helped lead 57 million to follow Jesus. The film has been translated into 420 languages, with plans for more as funds become available.

The new agreement, however, goes well beyond that. Through a new level of cooperation, the two agencies will combine their energies to foster Baptist church movements in cities overseas where Campus Crusade already has a college campus presence. They also agreed to cooperate in creating mechanisms to take the gospel into hard-to-reach areas.

"People in the pews have been asking, 'When are you folks going to start working together?'" said Jerry

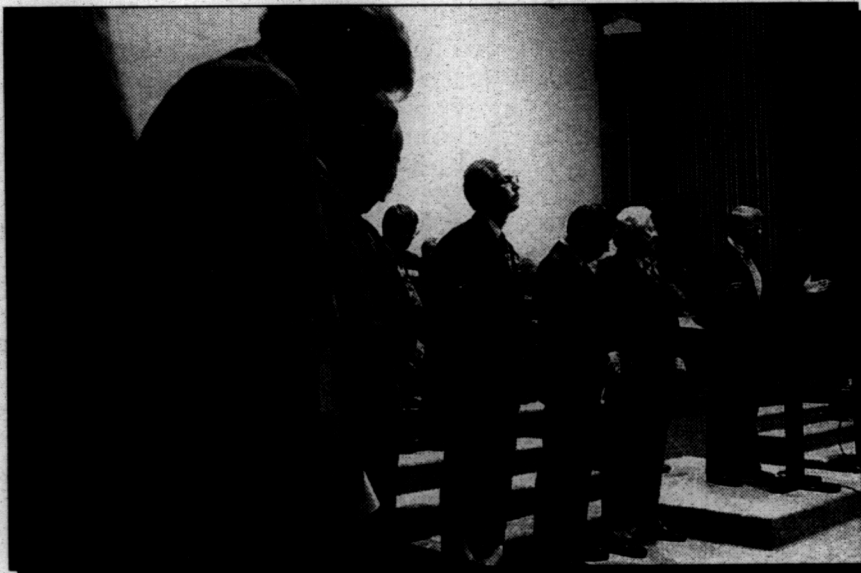


WATCHING 'JESUS' — A crowd in Mombasa, Kenya, watches the evangelistic film, "Jesus," produced by Campus Crusade for Christ. Southern Baptist International Mission Board representatives cooperate with Campus Crusade to produce and use the film, estimated to have been viewed by more than 1 billion people and to have helped lead 57 million to follow Jesus. The film has been translated into 420 languages, with plans for more as funds become available. (BP Photo by Bill Bangham)

Sharpless, Campus Crusade director of international missions. "When they hear news of this agreement, they will applaud and be more involved than ever in missions. I strongly believe that the spirit we witnessed in that meeting will accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission one-hundred-fold."

Those who implement the

new strategies will benefit immediately, Rankin said. "We have had a wonderful partnership and times of dialogue at an organizational level, but this will push the cooperation to a practical field level," he stressed. "Our respective field personnel are already working together in many places. This agreement will strengthen and expand those relationships."



NEW PARTNERS — Leaders of Campus Crusade for Christ and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board pray together during a Nov. 5 meeting in which they decided to combine evangelism efforts. (BP Photo by Bill Bangham)

(in Christian missions), where we are coming to realize that there is so much left to do and that no one organization can hope to accomplish it all," said Bailey Marks Sr., vice president for Campus Crusade for

BSSB online ordering gets boost

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Ordering dated materials online has gained popularity since the option became available through the Sunday School Board (BSSB) Web site on Sept. 9.

As of Nov. 3, 2,400 orders had been placed at www.bssb.com, saving time in getting the order to the board and minimizing errors by eliminating the need for orders to be re-keyed into the computerized system. Orders have ranged from a single copy of one publication title to more than 5,000 units of various literature items. In some cases, follow-up orders for additional materials are among those being sent through the Web site. Church orders have come from across the United States as well as other countries.

More than 1,300 churches have obtained a personal identification number (PIN) necessary to use the system. This ensures security for the account and eliminates the need to provide billing information online.

Within 24 hours of submitting the order over the Internet, a confirmation of the order is returned by e-mail, including a list of the items ordered and the anticipated ship date. Also, orders placed through the Web site before the due date found on the "Summary of Orders" page qualify for an early-order discount from the Southern Baptist Convention agency.

For now, online ordering is available only for dated materials. Undated resource ordering will be added in the future.

Churches may request a PIN online or by calling (800) 575-7004 or (615) 251-2064.

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Looking back

10 years ago

The 1,744 registered messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention elect Broadmoor Church, Jackson pastor, Jim Futral as president; pass an \$18.9 million budget; and approve a new 160-bed addition to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly that will also double as cafeteria space.

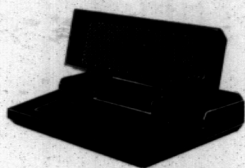
20 years ago

Lowery Compere is honored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 22 1/2 years of service as president of Baptist-affiliated Clarke College in Newton. He is presented a plaque by Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and chairman of the Christian Education Commission.

50 years ago

"The people who disintegrated the atom owe it to God as a matter of love and privilege every reasonable sacrifice to integrate humanity upon the teachings of the Word," proclaims W. A. Bell, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, in the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention sermon.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Learning from others' mistakes

The Associated Press wire service brought news earlier this week that the Texas Lottery is sinking fast from a combination of greedy politicians, bloated bureaucracy embroiled in a conflict-of-interest scandal, and a public in apparent revolt over their exploitation.

No surprises there. Under the heading of "We told you so," Mississippi Baptists can point to their involvement in various campaigns over the years that successfully prevented adoption of a state-sponsored lottery in Mississippi, because many of the concerns expressed in those Mississippi anti-lottery campaigns have now come to light in Texas.

We were right, after all.

The Texas Lottery is not the first gambling scam to go bad for its promoters, but it certainly seems the "Everything is bigger in Texas" slogan applies to the lottery controversy.

The Texas state agency that runs the nation's second-largest legalized numbers game has been battling a huge image problem for a year now, apparently over the cozy relationships some lottery officials maintain with G-TECH, Inc., the private firm that actually operates the lottery under contract with the state.

You may recall that the Rhode Island-based company has over the years been one of the tireless promoters of a lottery in Mississippi, often setting up shop in Jackson and lobbying hard during sessions of the Mississippi Legislature.

Texas legislators have compounded the lottery's manifold problems by sticking their hands deeper into the till. They decided it was time to increase their take by an additional \$300 million per year, meaning the "skim" for the state was raised from \$1.1 billion to \$1.4 billion annually.

That's *billion*, with a "b."

A fellow doesn't have to be a certified

public accountant to figure this one out, even if the politicians believe we can't.

Skimming an extra \$300 million off the top means there is less money to pay out. That means fewer winners with smaller jackpots, since the payout dropped from 57 cents per dollar spent to 53 cents per dollar spent. The state was also hobbled with a cut in advertising the lottery, thanks to the legislators' actions.

Apparently, the average Texan caught on, because proceeds from the lottery have dropped to the tune of \$10 million per week. Lottery ticket sellers all over the state report that regular players are spending much less on lottery tickets, and many have stopped playing the games altogether.

The state's solution? Start paying winners with pickup trucks instead of money. The payout won't increase, but it is apparently hoped that Texans will be blinded by pickup passion and therefore unable to see through this latest scheme to part them from their money.

Don't bet on it, if you'll pardon the pun.

People in other states are beginning to ask questions about their lotteries, too. When one state's politicians promised several years ago to dedicate lottery proceeds to education, they didn't lie.

What they did was reduce the state's general fund allocation for education by the amount the lottery brought in, meaning they freed up a great deal of general fund money for their pet projects while education funding remained at the same overall level.

It was a financial shell game, and the people are beginning to catch on.

In a state with no lottery but plenty of other gambling venues, it's time

"TONIGHT FOR A CHANGE WE ARE ANNOUNCING THE LOSERS IN THE STATE LOTTERY! HERE THEY ARE: LITTLE CHILDREN, THE COMMUNITY, THE POLICE, STORES, CHURCHES, TRUTH, JUSTICE, MERCY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE, AND THE ZILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT THE TICKETS!"



Mississippians caught on. Behind the high-sounding rhetoric of promoters and pro-gambling politicians are the slick maneuvers they hope will make them rich or guarantee their continued re-election.

They are willing to achieve their aims on the backs of people who can least afford to throw away their money — children and adults in the lower socio-economic levels of our society who can ill afford to lose their meager income in such a fruitless way.

Let's learn from others' mistakes and keep the lottery out of Mississippi. While we're at it let's flush out all the gambling kingpins and politicians who brought this misery to our state.

We've done it before and with God's help, we'll do it again.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ride 'em, cowboy!

By Carl M. White,
Associate Editor



This has been a most exciting state convention season. As is so often the case, all eyes were on Texas.

Those Texas Baptists are a real dedicated lot. You might even say they are down right fanatical. Some of them really believe that when Jesus returns he will set up headquarters for the kingdom in Waco. At least, that's what I've been told.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) last week approved historic, sweeping proposals that have ramifications for all Baptists, called the Effectiveness/Efficiency Report (E/E).

E/E contained 16 separate actions and 10 modifications to the BGCT constitution and bylaws. These recommendations were presented one at a time and were each received with enthusiasm by Texas Baptists with over 70% support.

I believe on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) level this was called "restructuring." We passed a sweeping restructuring of our national denomination a few years ago that was completed this summer. These changes created the North American Mission Board and eliminated the Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, and various other convention entities.

Also, in the spirit of the times, everybody got happy and decided to change their name. The Foreign Mission Board became the International Mission Board, the Christian Life Commission became the Ethics and Religion Liberty Commission, and so forth.

This "restructuring" was celebrated as the way to go — the thing to do — if we are

going to reach America and the world for Christ. Quite frankly, I was impressed and supportive of the proposals.

Now, answer me this: If a massive reorganization for the purpose of a more effective and efficient organization is appropriate on the national level, then shouldn't it be supported, even encouraged, on the state level?

Apparently not, at least if you listen to some people. From Nashville came cries of alarm and threats. In Texas a group called Southern Baptists of Texas (SBT) organized opposition to the E/E.

They contended that the real purpose behind E/E was to pull Texas Baptists away from the SBC. They equated it to civil war. In their opinion, Texas Baptists ought to be walking step in step with the national convention, instead of seeking God's will for Texas.

Here is where it gets interesting. According to a source in Texas, one of the biggest debates came over proposal number 13. It said, "That the BGCT be affirmed as an autonomous body which will support mission causes in Texas, the nation, and the world; and that the BGCT cooperate reciprocally with organizations and

affiliations that complement its mission and its statement of purpose."

In others words, Texas Baptists reaffirmed what has been a long standing Baptist principle — we are independent, autonomous churches and conventions that voluntarily cooperate with one another.

They really didn't have to vote on that because it was already true.

Some of the guys tried to amend this proposal, proving what others have been saying for many years: there are some among us who really do not understand what it means to be a Baptist.

This week Texas Baptists said definitively that no one else is going to decide God's will for Texas Baptists other than Texas Baptists. That is as it should be.

The same is true for us. As Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director Bill Causey has said so many times, Mississippi Baptists are responsible under God to discover God's will for Mississippi Baptists, and not anyone else.

This is what it has always meant to be free and faithful Baptists. We follow no other banner than the banner of the Cross. We follow it as our conscience dictates, not as someone in Nashville pontificates.

We do not need a Baptist pope or a Baptist college of cardinals. What we do need are men and women of committed faith to join hands with one another so we can bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

So to Texas Baptists I say, "Ye ha, ride 'em cowboy!" That's Texan for "Amen."

Texas messengers approve historic reorganization

AUSTIN (BP, ABP, and local reports) — Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) approved the Effectiveness/Efficiency (E/E) Committee plan for an array of new convention initiatives during their Nov. 10-11 annual meeting at the Austin Convention Center in Austin.

Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, was also elected convention president.

The E/E Committee report comes after two years of study, and included 16 recommendations and 10 changes to the BGCT constitution, bylaws, and articles of incorporation.

The constitutional changes require a two-thirds majority and must be approved at two consecutive annual sessions.

Interpretations of the actions vary and have created some rather unusual agreements.

"The thrust of every vote was to separate from the SBC," said Miles Seaborn, president of Southern Baptist of Texas (SBT), a conservative group wanting to walk more in sync with the rightward shift of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Associated Baptist Press executive Editor Greg Warner in his convention report seemed to agree with Seaborn, calling the action "historic changes sure to distance the group even further from the conservative-dominated SBC."

However, in a post-election press conference, Dilday said the sweeping changes approved by messengers to the Texas convention do not indicate "we are leaving" the Southern Baptist fold or becoming competitive with the national convention.

"There is no competition between lighthouses," Dilday said.

Outgoing BGCT president Charles Wade appealed to Southern Baptist leaders "not to chide Texas Baptists for our determination to give our churches and their leaders freedom to make the decisions they believe are best for them in reaching out to do missions work in the world."

"Southern Baptists will have our support if they will focus on missions and evangelism, but they will drive more and more Texas Baptists away if

they focus on requiring conformity as a condition for cooperation," said Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington.

After the report was first made public last summer, some SBC leaders and other critics denounced the E/E report and the recommended changes as hostile to the SBC.

Key recommendations centered around ministry to families, multi-cultural ministries, theological education, partnership missions, and Sunday School literature.

Debate centered primarily on issues related to the perception that the BGCT was distancing itself from the SBC, and also to the cost of implementing the recommendations.

Many of the recommendations sparked extended discussions and several amendments were introduced. However, messengers rejected amendments from the floor and approved recommendations.

A constitutional amendment on messenger eligibility, which would link the number of messengers a church is entitled to send to that church's contributions to the BGCT, received 73%

approval. That proposal will require messenger approval a second time at the Nov. 9-10, 1998 BGCT convention in Houston.

SBT leaders predicted that a new Baptist convention in the state would become more likely after the vote.

Conservatives "have in place all the machinery we need to begin an elementary convention in the state of Texas," Seaborn told a gathering of about 400 members after the Nov. 10 BGCT business sessions.

Seaborn indicated a decision could be made by the SBT board as early as December.

(Compiled by associate editor Carl M. White. Please see page five for more information on the BGCT meeting and other state conventions.)



Happy Thanksgiving!
November 27, 1997

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Missionary facing Kenyan criminal trial

SHINYANGA, Tanzania (BP) — Two years after he ran into a 16-year-old pedestrian in Nairobi, International Mission Board missionary Terry Bell has been charged with careless and reckless driving and summoned to appear in court.

The teenage girl died within an hour after she darted out into traffic in front of Bell's vehicle

June 10, 1995. Bell, who drove straight to police headquarters to report the accident and avoid vigilante justice, was not charged at the time. Two years later, however, he received a summons to appear in court on the charges, and a civil suit was also filed.

Either Bell or his lawyer has appeared in Nairobi criminal court five times this year: once

to enter a "not guilty" plea, once to pay bail (about \$800) and three times for trial. The case has been continued three times because prosecution witnesses failed to appear.

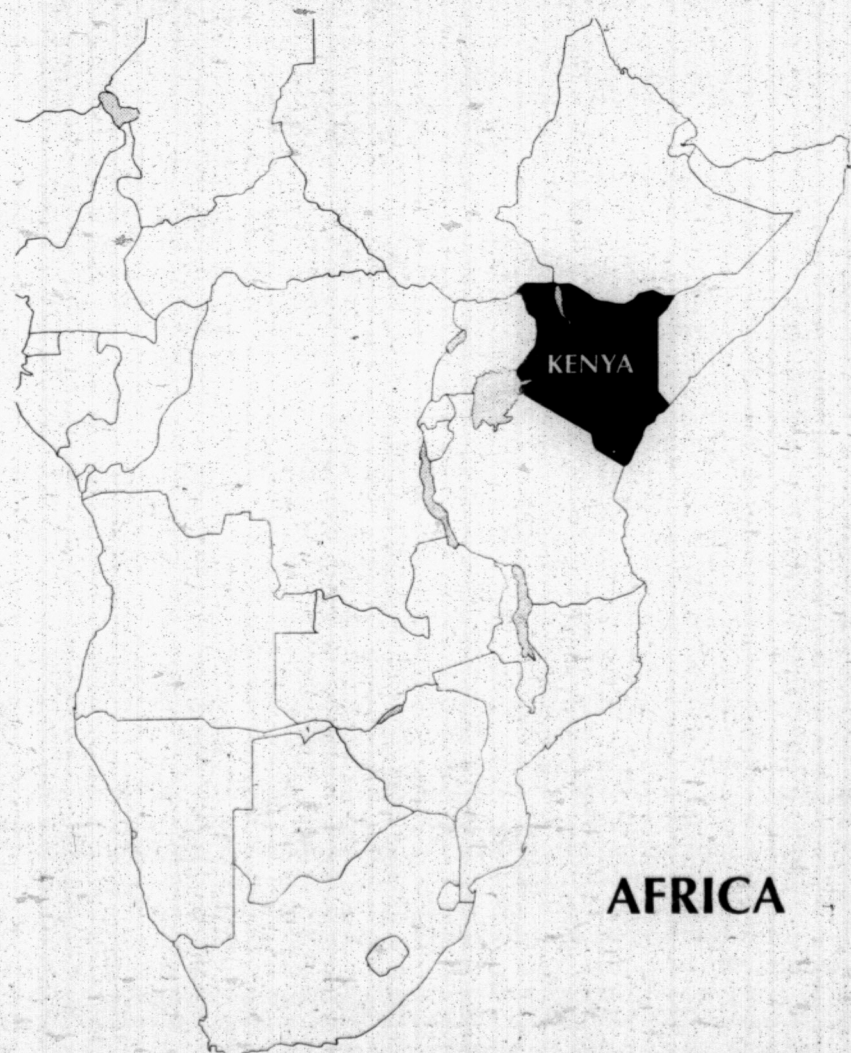
The next court appearance is set for 9:30 a.m. (1:30 a.m. Eastern) Nov. 24. A civil suit filed by the family begins 15 days later. Bell and his wife, Twylia, both from Texas, are asking Southern Baptists for continued prayer support — the kind of support that has carried them through thus far.

"It seems the prayer support

has just increased and increased," Bell said. "It's very humbling, because I never felt prayer like this before."

If found guilty of criminal charges, Bell could spend 10 years in a Kenya prison.

"When you look in the Bible, God allowed innocent people to be in even more difficult situations for his purpose. So, something could happen that we're not expecting," said Bell, who is assigned to Tanzania now. "But we feel confident the Lord has got this worked out in accordance with his will."



Convention reunion



Zelma and James Foster (left), retired foreign missionaries who last served in Suriname, visit with John McCall (right) of Mississippi College in the exhibit area during the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Ukrainian woman's faith—tested and true

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

She walked down a sparkling clean hallway, visiting classroom after classroom filled with nice furniture, colorful posters and a multiplicity of teaching aids.



OFFERING SUPPORT — David Mitchell (left) talks with translator Olga Shevchenko (center) and Pastor Yaroslav Borsyk (right) during their visit to Van Winkle Church in Jackson. The Ukrainians visited Mississippi during October and early November to learn more about Sunday School work. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Back home in the western Ukraine there was nothing at the Borislav Baptist Church to compare with what Olga Shevchenko saw.

Shevchenko and her pastor, Yaroslav Borsyk, came to the United States recently to learn about Sunday School work. Dan Robertson, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, invited them to visit so they might learn about the work of the Sunday School.

Robertson has made three evangelistic trips to Ukraine. Pontotoc Association has a partnership relationship with Baptist in western Ukraine, helping pastors with living expenses and sending teams to do mission work.

Shevchenko's life has been

one of remarkable faithfulness in the midst of suffering and freedom. Growing up in communist eastern Europe a Christian and a Baptist meant a life lived with the suspense of never knowing when the state's mighty fist might be brought down.

She can remember area-wide youth meetings in her teenage years. Of course, there is nothing unusual about Baptist young people gathering for an association or state youth rally. However, in communist Ukraine, these meetings were held in secret, late at night, deep in the forest.

"Young people from a whole region would come to the forest to hold a rally," she recalled while sitting at a table in the fellowship hall of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, where Pastor Borsyk was to speak.

Shevchenko's goal has been to bear a faithful witness for her Lord, wherever she may be and whatever the circumstances. People all around her are enjoying a typical Wednesday evening meal, but she does not eat. She is fasting.

"At my church Friday is a day of fasting," she said. In addition to that day, she fasts one other day a week as a personal expression of her faith in Christ.

It is also a practical consideration. She and her husband have both been without jobs for two years. They have two preschool children.

"When we pray, 'give us this day our daily bread,' we mean it," she said with a smile. "We have not gone hungry. Somehow God provides."

Shevchenko excelled as a student in school but was discriminated against because of her faith. "Because I was Baptist, I could not be given the gold

medal for good marks," she said.

The gold medal was given to the student with the best grades at the end of what we would consider high school. It also involved the opportunity to attend an institute for more advanced studies, the equivalent of a junior college.

Shevchenko felt that her good grades were part of her testimony for Christ. "Because people had been taught by the communist that anyone who believed in God was crazy, it was thought that a Christian could not make good marks. I wanted to show them that a Christian could do the work, as a witness and to earn respect."

However, she did not go unprepared. She and friends at her church fasted and prayed for three days, then she went to the principal, pointing to her good grades as proof that she deserved the medal. She won.

However, her struggles were not over. At the institute, when it was discovered that she was a Baptist and a Christian, the school started to revoke her scholarship. Shevchenko and her Christian friends again fasted and prayed. Then she went to see the president of the institute.

"I told her I wanted to go on to higher studies. She asked why, knowing I was a Baptist. I told her that God wanted me

to. It was then that I saw the fear of God in her face," Shevchenko said.

"Sometimes people who do not know God are fearful of God," she said.

Shevchenko made the best marks in her class at the institute. She also went on to higher studies in foreign languages. She speaks six languages.

As pastor Borsyk spoke that night to the congregation at Van Winkle Church, Shevchenko stood faithfully at his side translating. Her dress was tasteful but simple, not at all as fashionable as one might find at a typical Baptist church in the South. She wore no makeup.

There are the unmistakable signs of the hunger and suffering she has known, but one look into her eyes tells a different story. In those beautiful eyes there is something strong and alive, a faith that has been through the fires of testing and been found true.

"Could American Christians stand up to the persecution your people have endured," she is asked.

Immediately, she shakes her head and says, "No. Americans could not." Then a thoughtful look is followed by a shy smile. "But, God is able," she said. "Through God anything is possible."



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Why is it when the holidays come around that my mother-in-law feels it is her responsibility to talk all the time about spiritual matters? Don't take me wrong — we have raised our children to honor the Lord at this time of year, but we also enjoy other aspects of the holiday season.

This is a good situation in which to practice the old saying, "Walk a mile in the other person's moccasins." Take time to examine why your mother-in-law feels compelled to behave in this manner. What kind of life did she have as a child? Why is her faith so important to her? What is her spiritual gift? A discussion of her childhood might reveal strong religious training or a complete lack thereof — either of which may drive her to seek spiritual truths and share them with loved ones. Possibly her parents pushed hard in spiritual ways, but otherwise didn't have much fun as a family. If you take the time to understand how she came to such a strong faith, you might learn of difficulties

or trials that she encountered in her spiritual journey. Tragedies and traumas she experienced might make her more thankful for her faith at this time of year. Your mother-in-law is blessed with a spiritual gift, which may well be to speak the truth as opposed to other gifts such as a service or encouragement. Are you aware of your own spiritual gift? Talk with your pastor or a Christian counselor. When you understand your own spiritual gift, you will likely understand your mother-in-law's spiritual gift as well. Pray that God will show you how to lead out in this matter, because you'll undoubtedly discover things you didn't know. You will also have an opportunity to share your own experiences, which will hopefully lead to greater understanding between the two of you. A final suggestion: Ask your mother-in-law to help plan holiday festivities, and make it clear that a specific time can be set aside to share spiritual lessons if she so desires. Happy Holidays!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Stone marks leader's grave



This stone, marking the grave of the man considered to be the organizer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is located in the Natchez City Cemetery, within the gates of the John and Sarah Richards family plot. The Richards were among the founders of First Church, Natchez, in 1817.

The marker states:

**ELDER ASHLEY VAUGHN
DIED MCH. 29, 1838, AGE 31.**

"Pioneer, Preacher, Pastor, Evangelist, Editor in Mississippi. Organizer, President, and Leader of Baptist State Convention. 'Alfred the Great of Mississippi Baptists.' 'Being Poor He Made Many Rich'"

(BR Special Photo)

State conventions convene around country

ILLINOIS

Messengers pledge to work harder in northern Illinois

EFFINGHAM, Ill. (BP) — Messengers to Illinois Baptist State Association's (IBSA) annual meeting Nov. 5-6 committed themselves to planting churches in northern Illinois and reaching the region for Christ. They also re-elected their convention president and adopted a \$5.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 1998.

The \$5,535,747 Cooperative Program budget for 1998 is an increase of \$73,924 over the 1997 budget. The 1998 Cooperative Program ratio of 59.25% for IBSA ministries and 40.75% for Southern Baptist Convention causes is the same ratio used in 1997.

NEW ENGLAND

Messengers approve 12% budget increase

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (BP) — "In prayer, God achieves one of two purposes — to make us like him or to make us participate in his works," author and Bible teacher T.W. Hunt told more than 200 messengers and guests attending the Baptist Convention of New England's (BCNE) 15th annual meeting.

During the business sessions, 171 messengers also adopted without debate a 1998 Baptist Convention of New England budget of \$2,534,775, a 12% increase over the 1997 budget. The budget includes a \$125,605 deficit, approximately \$70,000 less than the '97 deficit. In Cooperative Giving from New England churches, the '98 budget anticipates \$595,000, 21% of which will be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention North American and international missions, the same percentage as the current year.

GEORGIA

Proposed Mercer compromise gains approval

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP) — The Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) affirmed a nine-point report that seeks to bring healing and reconciliation between the convention and its flagship school, Mercer University.

Messengers also re-elected Atlanta-area pastor Frank Cox as president during their annual meeting Nov. 10-11 at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Marietta.

The recommendation concerning the Mercer relationship was adopted in September by the GBC executive committee and Mercer trustees' executive committee. It calls for more direct convention involvement in the selection of some Mercer trustees and stipulates that the next president of Mercer should be a Baptist who can affirm the theology of the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Southern Baptist

Convention in 1963.

Adopting its largest Cooperative Program budget ever, of \$40.2 million, the convention approved a 1998 increase of 5.78% over '97, reflecting healthy giving patterns to date toward reaching this year's budget goal.

Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries will receive 43.94% of the budget, or \$17,665,100 in '98. Georgia Baptist initiatives will receive the same amount. The other 12.12% of the budget goes for a category of expenses referred to as "Shared Responsibilities," ministries that support both Georgia Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

ARKANSAS

Ouachita reconciliation narrowly defeated

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Following a year-long debate over Ouachita Baptist University's (OBU) trustee selection process, Arkansas Baptist messengers narrowly defeated proposed charter and bylaw changes which would have implemented a reconciliation agreement between the state convention and Ouachita.

Although the reconciliation agreement was adopted last year, necessary charter and bylaw changes to implement the plan require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. The proposals were affirmed this year by a vote of 999 to 528 but fell 1.3% short of gaining the needed 66.7% majority.

LOUISIANA

Consensus nominee elected as La. convention president

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — In an action that many longtime Louisiana Baptists described as "unprecedented," messengers to the 150th Louisiana Baptist Convention elected Bob Anderson of Baton Rouge as president by acclamation during the group's annual meeting, Nov. 10-11 at the Alexandria Riverfront Center.

The action was a departure from the fiercely contested presidential elections of recent years and comes after months of dialogue between leaders of both sides of the conflict in the state convention.

"Think about a peace-driven convention," Anderson told messengers on Tuesday evening. "We're going to have to (achieve peace) by reaching out to one another emphasizing that the Jesus in you loves the Jesus in me."

In a trustee vote, messengers approved nominees submitted in September by Louisiana College President Rory Lee at the request of the nominating committee, encompassing three conservatives and three moderates.

Also during the meeting, messengers approved a \$19 million Cooperative Program budget for the state convention

for 1998. The budget total represents a 5.6% increase from last year's budget.

State leaders noted that budget receipts for this year are more than \$500,000 above budget requirements. As it has for many years, the state convention budget calls for 35% of receipts to be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

TEXAS

E/E Report approved; Dilday elected president

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) approved an Effectiveness/Efficiency (E/E) Committee plan for an array of new convention initiatives and elected former Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. as BGCT president during their Nov. 10-11 meeting at the Austin Convention Center (Please see article on page three.)

Convention messengers approved a 1998 BGCT projected operating budget of \$47,619,101. Of the total, \$44.5 million will come from the Cooperative Program unified budget, a \$1 million (2.3%) increase over the previous year's budget. The remainder will come from the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions, endowments and other sources.

In Cooperative Program giving, the convention retains its current allocation of 67% for BGCT causes and 33% for worldwide causes, with \$23 million designated for SBC missions and ministries.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Record budget approved

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Messengers attending the South Carolina Baptist Convention's 177th annual meeting approved a record budget of \$25.75 million for 1998 and launched a missions partnership with the Baptists of Romania.

The convention's 1998 budget of \$25.75 million is \$1.42 million over the '97 budget. It will continue allocations of 60% for South Carolina Baptist work and 40% for Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.

MARYLAND/DELEWARE

Messengers adopt 5.5% increase in convention budget

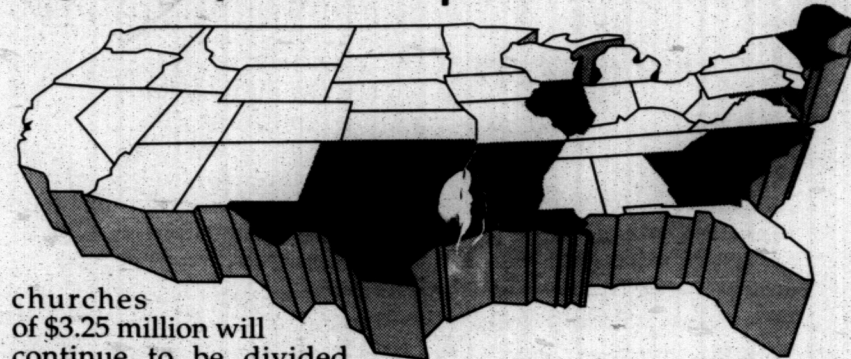
SOLOMON'S ISLAND, Md. (BP) — Apart from singing, sermons, and reports, resolutions dominated business sessions of 407 messengers at the 162nd meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), Nov. 10-11 in Solomon's Island, Md.

Messengers passed a \$5,368,876 budget for 1998.

The resolutions committee presented to the convention 20 statements, mostly addressing

moral issues. All received approval, though messengers debated the wording of one that encouraged support of pastors.

The \$5,368,876 budget represents a 5.5% increase over 1997. Anticipated Cooperative Program receipts from the



churches of \$3.25 million will continue to be divided 51% for BCM/D work and 49% for national and international Southern Baptist causes after the preferred annuity item has been deducted.

OKLAHOMA

Messengers give okay to Malawi missions partnership

BETHANY, Okla. (BP) — Oklahoma Baptists approved a partnership with the Malawi Baptist Convention in Africa during their Nov. 10-11 annual meeting.

All officers of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) were re-elected at the meeting, which drew 1,083 messengers to Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany.

Messengers approved an \$18.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 1998, a 7% increase or \$250,000 over 1997. It retains the same allocation between BGCO and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries, with 60% staying in state and 40% going to the SBC.

NORTH CAROLINA

Executive director-treasurer named; record \$31 million budget approved

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Messengers to the 167th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), meeting Nov. 10-12, elected a full slate of new officers and approved the recommendation from its General Board for a new executive director-treasurer; adopted a record budget of \$31 million; and received the report of a special committee on the circulation of the state Baptist paper.

James H. Royston, pastor of the Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, Tenn., was "unanimously and enthusiastically" approved as the state's new executive director-treasurer.

Two efforts to reduce or escrow the budget allocation to the state Baptist paper were overwhelmingly defeated.

Messengers also heard a report from a special study committee to analyze declining subscriptions of The Biblical Recorder, which indicated that the decline was in line with that of other Baptist papers and newspapers in general.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Baptists' Calvinism debate stirring anew

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — The question has given rise to the oldest continuing controversy among Baptists, and particularly during the 150-year history of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Jesse Fletcher: "Did Jesus die for everyone or for only a few?"

While enormously important to the future of Baptists, the controversy over Calvinism "has been a relatively genteel one, as Baptist battles go, but is not without its passions," Fletcher, chancellor of Hardin Simmons-University, Abilene, Texas, told the annual meeting of the Texas Baptist Historical Society Nov. 10 in Austin.

He added, "... as is in the case of most such battles, each side has a measure of truth from which to make its case."

Fletcher is the author of "The Southern Baptist Convention: A Sesquicentennial History," published a year before the 1995 SBC celebration by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman division.

The issue of Calvinism has existed ever since Baptists began in England, he said, and the "fault line between Calvinism and Arminianism ... periodically resurfaces" as a significant controversy.

Fletcher traced Calvinism from its beginnings in the 1530s in Geneva when Frenchman John Calvin developed an exhaustive and "tightly reasoned" system which he wrote as the Institutes of the Christian Religion.

Calvinism has "five high particulars that theological students have memorized for years with the acronym TULIP," Fletcher explained: "total depravity of man, unconditional election of some to salvation, limited atonement, irresistible grace implied by the

foregoing, and perseverance of the saints." He said Calvinism originally included a church-controlled state (theocracy) and infant baptism.

While Calvinism was at first "pervasive among English Puritans and Separatists (Baptists)," English Baptists "soon moved away from Calvinism's limited atonement to Joseph Arminius' general atonement concepts," Fletcher said.

General atonement, he said, holds that Jesus died for all, that grace is free to anyone who will receive it and that people have the right to refuse God's grace.

Calvinism had an impact on early American Baptists, but Fletcher said most Baptists "tended toward a modified Calvinism or a general atonement framework."

The New Hampshire Confession of Faith adopted by Regular Baptists in 1833, he said, reads that the "blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel ... that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own voluntary refusal ..."

Southern Baptists, in the course of their 150-year history, "have clearly moved away from Calvinism ... to a free grace, full atonement position that fit their missionary and evangelistic culture," Fletcher said.

Two Texas Baptists — B.H. Carroll and L.R. Scarborough — were leaders in the effort to turn Baptists toward "a general atonement spirit and a resistible grace evangelism equation," Fletcher said.

Noting Calvinism has re-emerged as a point of contention among Baptists in recent years, Fletcher said, "When the inerrancy movement broke upon Southern Baptists in the late 1970s and marched resolutely toward dominance in 1990, a number of Calvinists were among its leadership because most

included Thomas Ascol, Tom Nettles, R. Albert Mohler Jr. and Timothy George.

"Ascol, a Florida pastor, and Nettles, a theological professor, are not well-known names in recent Baptist battles, but Mohler and George are," Fletcher said, explaining Mohler was editor of the Georgia Baptist state newspaper and since has become president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and George is a former professor at Southern Seminary and currently dean at Beeson School of Divinity at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Fletcher said Calvinism "has in fact been the theology of choice for a very limited, but elite few who, in turn, find and faithfully disciple other like-minded young theologians."

However, Fletcher added, that may have changed with Mohler's ascension as president of Southern, his bringing in of Calvinists to the faculty, including Nettles, and "his call for a return to Reform theology."

Fletcher quoted Mohler as predicting that as "Southern Baptists seek to recover our theological inheritance and the essence of biblical Christianity, I believe we will see a return to a more Calvinistic understanding of the gospel and a recognition of the absolute sovereignty of God."

He added Mohler said the move toward Calvinism would "lead to a blazing recovery of missionary zeal and evangelistic fervor — and the renewal of the church."

Fletcher, as an unwritten aside, told participants he was "resisting the impulse to say if it did, it would be a historical first."

Calvinists are inerrantists.

"Yet, as became evident, very few inerrantists are Calvinists," Fletcher said, quoting Larry Lewis, former president of the then-Home Mission Board, as saying, "Calvinism can be a death blow to missions and evangelism" and former SBC President Bailey Smith saying he does not believe "God elects anybody to be lost."

Fletcher also quoted former Southwestern Seminary professor R. Cal Guy, whom he called a leader in the conservative resurgence, as saying "God does not send anybody to hell; it is their choice."

Fletcher said a "group of young theologians organized themselves 1972 as the Founders Conference, dedicated to calling Southern Baptists back to Calvinism."

The original group, he said,

Schedule released for MBC highlights broadcast

Highlights of the 162nd Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be broadcast on a number of ACTS and other church cable television systems around the state during the weeks of Nov. 30-Dec. 7.

The broadcast will include:

- ◆ An introduction by Bill Causey.
- ◆ Bible treasures by Stephen Olford.
- ◆ Inspirational music by the Blue Mountain College Choir; Sanctuary Choir-First Church, McComb; Sanctuary Choir-Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

- ◆ Testimonies on "Following Christ" and portions of messages preached by Jerry Young, Jimmy Porter, Jim Futral, Bill Causey, and Chuck Kelley.

"Follow Christ's Servant Example" was the theme of the convention and is the title of the 58-minute "Highlights" videotape. The Department of Broadcast Services (DBS), at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board produced the video in cooperation with First Church, Jackson; First Church, Hattiesburg; and Anderson Productions of Jackson Sound & Communications of Jackson provided sound engineers for the convention.

Videotapes of the Bible Treasures and convention sermons will be available from

DBS on 1/2-inch-VHS videotape for loan by Dec. 12, as well as the convention highlights videotape.

If other churches in the state have access to a cable channel, DBS will loan a 3/4-inch

or S-VHS videotape for broadcast.

For more information, contact DBS at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

NAME	DATE	TIME	CABLE CHANNEL
ACTS of Rankin	Dec. 1	7 p.m.	Rankin Co. Cable Channel 35
First, Brandon	Nov. 30	6 p.m.	Bresnan Communications, Ch. 2
First, Bruce	Dec. 3	6 p.m.	WO7BN LPTV, Ch. 7
First, Calhoun City	Dec. 4	7 p.m.	Vista Communications Channel 27
	Dec. 11	7 p.m.	
ACTS Channel 10	Dec. 1	9 a.m.	Warner Cable Co. Channel 10
First, Cleveland	Dec. 2	9 a.m.	
	Dec. 3	9 a.m.	
	Dec. 4	10 a.m.	
First, Grenada	Nov. 30	2 p.m.	LPTV, Channel 13
	Dec. 2	7 p.m.	Cable Channel 13
	Dec. 5	7 p.m.	
First, Greenville	Dec. 1	7 p.m.	PCA Cable TV, Channel 17
	Dec. 3	7 p.m.	
First, Hattiesburg	Dec. 1	9 p.m.	Pinebelt Cable Channel 6
	Dec. 3	11 a.m.	
	Dec. 5	7 p.m.	
ACTS of Jackson	Dec. 1	6 p.m.	Capitol Cablevision Channel 40
First, Jackson	Dec. 2	6 p.m.	
First, Kosciusko	Dec. 3	7:30 p.m.	Northland Cable Channel 2
First, New Albany	Dec. 7	5:30 p.m.	Galaxy, Channel 13

COXES OFF TO MIDEAST

Editor:

We are writing to share with you some exciting changes that are taking place in our lives.

Most of you know that the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) has been going through a period of restructuring during the last several months.

The International Mission Board (IMB, formerly the FMB) has restructured our work overseas and divided the world into 14 geographical regions instead of the former 10 areas.

Each region has a regional leader, and Larry has been named regional leader for the new Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) which includes 27 countries — including all of the Arab world. Larry will be working with 325 missionaries serving in this region.

Though we did not seek this position and were very happy in our work as field associate area director for Central Europe, we are excited about this new responsibility and the challenges that it presents.

We packed our household goods and stored them in Germany, and we will be operating out of a furnished apartment in Cairo for the next year.

During the next year we will be setting up our regional office in Cyprus, and we will eventually move there.

All email addresses that have been active for us have been canceled for security reasons. Please use the following email address: menarl@techno.com.com.

Our mailing address is P.O.

Box 214, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1FP, United Kingdom (Mail will be forwarded to us).

Cheryl and Larry Cox
Cairo, Egypt

RAs, GAs AFFIRMED

Editor:

Greetings to you from Abidjan, Ivory Coast!

It has been my privilege to receive The Baptist Record for all the years which I have served in West Africa.

Therefore, at this time I wish to thank you for keeping this fine Baptist journal coming my/our way — wherever your Mississippi missionaries serve around the world.

I also wish to thank you and your staff for the fine manner in which you address issues which are so important to our churches.

This week I received the Oct. 16 edition and appreciated your editorial.

You addressed concerns regarding men who are willing to be involved in exciting meetings/conferences like the Promise Keepers but who "have not stepped forward" in their churches to be involved in leading Royal Ambassadors (RA) groups, etc.

Working with groups of young boys may not be as exciting but it would certainly be challenging.

What better thing could one do, than to help young fellows to come to know the Lord?

I have observed how effective RAs and Girls in Action (GAs) have been in Liberia to strengthen the churches per-

haps more than any other one factor — for these are the ones who have entered the seminary, became pastors and church leaders, and are the faithful ones serving our Lord during a most difficult time in that country.

I will be leaving West Africa in December for my final furlough which leads up to retirement in June '98.

My stateside address will be: Route 1, Box 87, Carrollton, MS 38917.

Rachel A. DuBard
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

SS TESTIMONIES NEEDED

Editor:

I am collecting testimonies of Sunday School teachers. Remember the first Sunday School teacher who encouraged you in the Lord?

If you write about your Sunday School teacher, you will expand the testimony of their life into our lives also. (Replies may be E-mailed to Bibleansw@aol.com)

James Johnston
c/o Bible Answers
Dept. AB
PO Box 200
St. Paul, AR 72760

PK ISSUE: TRUST GOD

Editor:

I'm responding to (a Nov. 6 letter to the editor) written by Bennet Blanton of Houston.

He claims that a major tenet of the Promise Keepers (PK) movement is to "de-emphasize doctrine" and "ecumenicity".

In actuality, the tenets, the "seven promises," encompass honoring Jesus, pursuing relationships with other men, integrity, building strong marriages and families, supporting pastors, Biblical unity, and influencing the world for Christ.

I don't believe that the "Biblical unity" of the 6th promise means to embrace false doctrine; it means to embrace others and love them! (Gal. 3: 28-29 emphasizes this).

I strongly disagree with the doctrines of such cults as Mormons and others, but do not believe that being a PK means that one condones the doctrines of these so-called "denominations."

Christ commands that we love others regardless if we agree with their beliefs.

The ground at the foot of the cross is level and in Jesus' eyes, there are no racial, economic, or denominational differences! (Let him sort out who was right or wrong at the judgment).

I have seen lives, marriages and families enriched and even saved from destruction because of the Holy Spirit's work through PK.

I have seen men surrender to full time Christian service because of this influence.

Think of the many souls who have been spared from a fiery hell because they were saved at a PK meeting!

We trust God to keep his promises, and nothing surpasses the power of a promise kept.

Cindy Trussell
Grenada



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



RAs of Lollars Grove Church, Eupora, collected about 25 bags of groceries in October for World Hunger. RAs, pictured, from left, front row, are Brad Winfield, Samuel Jackson, Doug Smith, and Dustin Carter; back row, Dorothy Rogers, leader, John Thompson, and Mike Rogers, leader; (not pictured) Lee Allen Kendricks, Chris Williams, and Lee Welch. The food received was given to the Food Pantry Ministry, Webster Association.



Eighteen men representing Union County Association went to Waverly, Ill., in September to assist the members of New Life Southern Church. Each year Union County Association External Missions Program selects a mission to allow the men of the association to receive mission work experience and to help a sister church. The church building was completely vinyl sided, suspended ceiling was installed in the sanctuary, windows and doors were installed and necessary electrical wiring was finished. Workers pictured (kneeling, from left) are Harold Anthony, New Albany; Jim Whiteside, New Albany; Carlton Fair, Myrtle; Charlie Jarrett, Myrtle; Robert Brownlee, Myrtle; Les Jones, New Albany; B. J. Whiteside, New Albany; (standing) Ray Shirley, Myrtle (behind); Paul Whiteside, New Albany (front); Gordon Brewer, New Albany; James Shirley, Myrtle; Leon Wilson, Myrtle; Gene Dunahue, Etta; Marvin Cox, Blue Springs; Jimmy Baker, Myrtle; Tommy Peters, Myrtle; Billy Foley, Myrtle; and Raymond Owen, Potts Camp. For additional information or questions, contact Union County Association at (601) 534-3940.

Accuracy of SBTS official's letter challenged

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — A claim published in a newspaper that Southern Seminary (SBTS) experienced 20% enrollment gains three straight semesters was inaccurate, seminary officials acknowledge.

In a letter to the editor, seminary spokesman David Porter criticized the Louisville Courier-Journal for negative coverage of the recent firing of a seminary librarian and charged the newspaper with ignoring positive developments, including "a 20% increase in enrollment for the third semester in a row."

Contacted later by the Kentucky Baptist newspaper, Western Recorder, which had

repeatedly requested enrollment figures, Porter said his statement was imprecise.

In a Nov. 5 letter, Porter said the statistic he cited in the Courier-Journal should have referred to a 20% increase in the number of new students on campus in each of the last three semesters.

"My letter to the editor two weeks ago did not clarify that point," he said.

While acknowledging the error, seminary officials reported that total enrollment has increased this fall for the first time since 1995.

"We hope we have reached the bottom and now are on the upturn," said Doug Walker, vice president for institutional

advancement. "From 1995 on, the numbers have been declining. We're not trying to hide any of that."

Walker explained Nov. 6 that Porter "was not trying to mislead anyone" by including the inaccurate statement in his letter to the editor.

At the Recorder's request, Walker and Porter provided statistics on new student on-campus enrollment to show a pattern of increases since fall 1996. They said the number of new students on campus increased from 283 to 344 in fall 1996 (21.6%), from 161 to 192 in spring 1997 (19%) and from 344 to 517 this fall (50%).

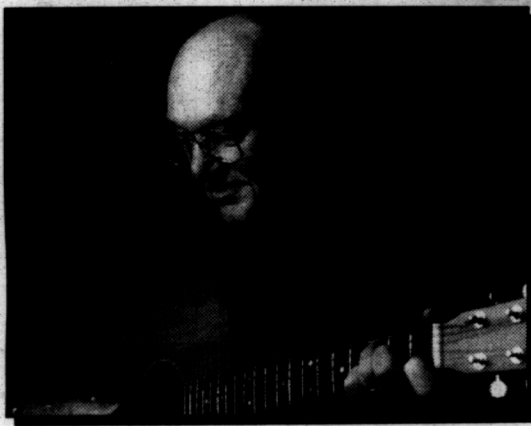
Walker said increasing new-student enrollment has been a

key strategy of the administration's efforts to rebuild a total student population that declined 34% in Al Mohler's first three years as president.

Walker acknowledged that the seminary's total enrollment has not shown the same level of increase as new-student enrollment. He cited two reasons: large graduating classes in recent semesters and a "retention issue."

However, he said the next couple of semesters will be "critical" to making the gains in new-student enrollment translate into increases in total enrollment. He cited a 14% increase (from 1,131 to 1,292) in total on-campus enrollment this fall.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Green

D. W. Green, 66, pastor of Bond Church, Neshoba Association, was one of 240 winners in a letter writing contest sponsored by the United States Postal Service and the Educational Television Network. He was selected as Mississippi's best overall entry in the contest's 60-69 age category. His letter appears in the Healthy Aging...

Inspirational Letters from Americans, published in May. In his winning letter, Green explained how a healthy diet and exercise improved his quality of life. In addition to his pastoral duties, Green enjoys writing and composing songs. His first tape, Canyons of My Mind, was recently released. A native of Bridgeport, Texas, Green received his education at William Carey College, Southwestern Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.

Souenlovie Church, Enterprise, held a retirement reception on Sept. 21 for Parker Chancellor in honor of his 25 years of service.



Chancellor



First Church, Marion, honored Sam Lackey on Sept. 28 for serving as deacon for 50 years. Pictured (from left) are Walter Blackman, pastor; Lackey; and Raymond Massey, chairman of deacons.



First Church, Vancleave, held a Deacon Ordination Service on Sept. 21. Pictured (from left) are Tom Slade; Greg Potts, pastor; and Lloyd Blank.



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THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE of Colonial Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee is accepting resumes at this time. Colonial is a neighborhood church in southeast Memphis with approximately 400 in Sunday School attendance. Mail Resumes to: Colonial Baptist Church, 1503 Colonial Road, Memphis, TN 38117

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Youth/Recreation Minister. Send resumes to First Baptist Church of Byram, 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Phone 601-372-3156.

HELP WANTED: Staff pianist and staff organist. Immanuel Baptist Church, Cleveland, MS. Good Salary. (601) 843-3507.

ACCEPTING RESUMES: Full-time organist needed. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Music Dept., PO Box 249, Raleigh, MS 39153.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH: First Baptist Church, Brooklyn. Send

resumes to Bro. James Taylor, PO Box 328, Brooklyn, MS 39425.

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http://www.videcomp.com/watson/ New internet resource for better families by Mississippi Baptists' own Dr. Stanley Watson.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

FOR SALE: Church Pews. Lengths: (14 feet to 22 1/2 feet) Contact: Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117, Phone: (901) 682-3395 Fax: (901) 683-8771

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CHURCH ORGAN FOR SALE: The First Baptist Church, 201 West Main Street, Okolona, Mississippi, has a Hammond church organ in walnut finish with two Hammond speakers and one Leslie speaker for sale. The organ has two-octave foot pedals. The organ and speakers are in good condition. Mail your sealed bid to the above address. If you would like to call

the church, the telephone number is (601) 447-5416. The church reserves the right to reject any bid.

PASSENGER VANS FOR private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, set a goal of \$900 for state missions. The goal was reached in one day with over \$1,000 and by the end of the month the people had given \$1,598.50. The church also gave

\$1,191.50 for World Hunger Day. Robert H. Perry is pastor.

Eastabuchie Church, Eastabuchie, will celebrate Thanksgiving and homecoming on Nov. 23 at 11 a.m. with

George Burger, director of missions, Lebanon Association, as guest speaker. Don Burch will be in charge of the music program. Dinner will be served in fellowship hall immediately afterward. Arlie E. Spalding Sr. is pastor.

recently spent time in Gallup, New Mexico, working in Bible Camps with the Navaho Indians.

Pictured (from left) are Ed and Sara Waters, Lucille Gibbon, Barbara Peavey, Jimmy McLendon; Lucille McLendon, Star Boutwell, and Steve Pouncey, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Pine Level, Leakesville: Nov. 30-Dec. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m., Harvest dinner following morning worship, and fifth Sunday singing service at 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Dave MacIsaac, Buckatunna, evangelist; Kevin Mardis, Lucedale, music;

Mitchell Osborne, pastor.

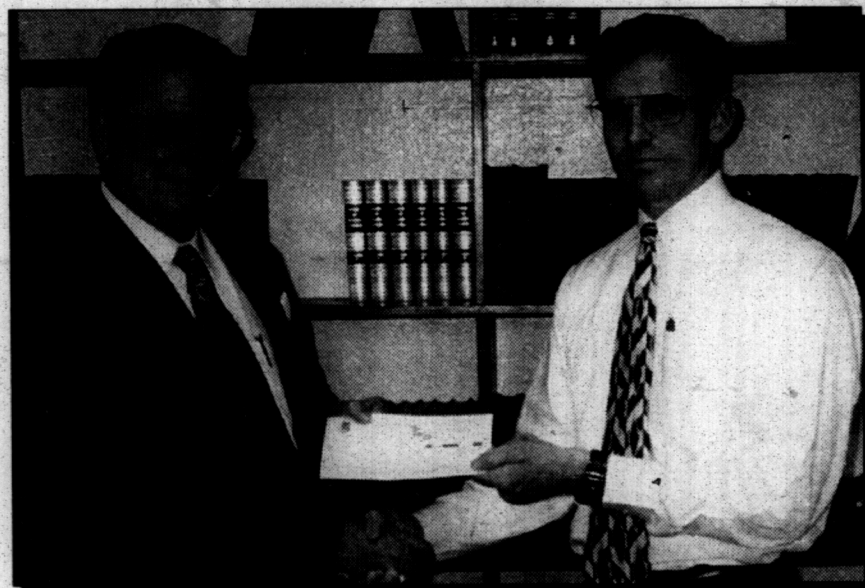
Main Street, Mendenhall: Nov. 21-23; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Robert Toney, Gloster; evangelist; His Praise, music; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College Opera Workshop will present scenes from three comic operas on Nov. 20 and 21 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. For additional information call the Music Department at (601) 925-3440.

William Carey College has

received \$25,000 to establish the Dumas L. Smith Scholarship for students majoring in religion or business. The gift was announced by Larry Kennedy, interim president, on the 83rd birthday of the late Dumas L. Smith, a long time trustee and benefactor of the college.



Elmer C. Ash, pastor of Friendship Church, Ellisville, was recently awarded the E. R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship. Ash, an honor student at William Carey College, is pictured receiving the scholarship from Hardy R. Denham, director of Church and Denominational Relations at William Carey College. This scholarship, funded by Pinson family and friends, is designated to be given annually to a Church-Related Vocation student at one of the Mississippi Baptist colleges.

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Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames, a dramatic presentation of real life experiences, will be presented at Pass Road Church, Gulfport. It features a cast of 50 members of the church with special sound and lighting effects. Time and dates are Nov. 23-25, 29, and Dec. 1-3 at 7 p.m. Tickets are free and available by calling the church at (228) 863-1697. Edgar Jackson is pastor.

A mission team from Mt. Vernon Church, Newton, and Fellowship Church, Enterprise,



Indian children received their very first Bibles presented by members of the team.

STAFF CHANGES

Gary M. Bunch has recently been called to Woodville Church, Woodville. He previously pastored East Corinth Church, Corinth. A native of Starkville, Bunch received his education at Mississippi State University and Southern Seminary.



Bunch

First Church, Madison, has called **Mike Hart** as minister of youth effective Jan. 1, 1998. A native of Louisiana, Hart received his education at

Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Ark. and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, San Marcos, Texas.

Concord Church, Rankin Association, has called **Andy Thomas Stoddard** as minister of youth effective Nov. 9. Stoddard is a senior at Mississippi College.

Bethel Church of Woodland, Chickasaw Association, has called **Robert Britt** as pastor effective Oct. 5. His previous place of service was Gooden Lake Church, Humphreys Association.

Arbor Grove, Houston, Chickasaw Association, has called **Michael Mathena** as pastor. His previous place of service was First Church, Reserve, La.



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Revival results

Southside, Vicksburg: Nov. 2-5; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Ricky Shirley, Vicksburg, music; six professions of faith; Charles Tyler, interim pastor.

HOMECOMINGS

Line Creek, Morton: Nov. 23; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; and cemetery meeting at 1 p.m.; Scott Walters, former pastor, guest speaker; Robert Miles, pastor.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The sure promises of God

Genesis 21:1-25:8

By Jason Bird

Imagine having to wait twenty-five years for God to fulfill a promise made to you. Then imagine God asking you to give back to him the fulfillment of that promise. That is exactly what happened to Abraham. Yet, he continued to live by faith and was blessed by the Lord because of it. His experiences remind us God always provides for those who are obedient to him.

God's Promise Fulfilled (21:1-7). Verse one contains a powerful statement: "the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised." Twenty-five years

after God had made the promise to give the couple an heir, God did just what he said. Sarah acknowledged that no one would have ever dreamed she could give her husband a son. But when God's power made it possible, she was filled with joy and acknowledged the miracle God had provided.

Sarah's reactions are indicative of the response believers can have when they trust that God keeps his promises. God's timing may not always be what we hope for or expect, but it is always perfect. Just like Sarah, our hearts can be filled with joy



Bird

and laughter over the assurance that God will always do just as he said.

A Test Of Faith Concerning The Promise (22:1-8). What an incredible blow God's command must have been to Abraham! For twenty five years he had waited for a son from God. Now he was being

asked to sacrifice his son and give him back to God. The whole promise God had made to Abraham depended on this child, yet now he was being asked to kill him. Abraham had two choices: he could spare his son and disobey God, or he could trust in the God who had given him the son in the first place. Abraham chose the latter.

Hebrews 11:19 gives us an indication of the enormous faith Abraham had. He reasoned that God had given him

this son in the first place and God could raise that same son back to life if that is what he needed to do in order to fulfill his promise to Abraham. What incredible faith!

It is doubtful that any of us will ever have to experience a test of faith as challenging as Abraham. His faithfulness serves as an example of how God calls us to trust in Him, no matter how difficult the circumstances. Abraham had complete confidence that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice and everything would be okay. God made a promise to Abraham and he knew God wasn't about to break it now after twenty five years of faithfulness.

God's Promise Reaffirmed (22:15-18). Because Abraham trusted God with that which was most precious in his life, God reaffirmed the covenant he made with Abraham many years

before. Abraham had held nothing back from God, but had been willing to give everything to him because he trusted him so much. In light of that kind of commitment, God promised again to bless Abraham and to bless other nations through Abraham.

God promised Abraham his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the beaches. He also promised that Abraham's descendants would take possession of the cities of Canaan. This promise was fulfilled during the conquest of the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua.

Abraham teaches us true faith trusts God completely and always gives its best. God honors that faith by continuing to bless our pilgrimage of faith and by using us to bless others.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Cope with hostility

Nehemiah 4

By Wayne VanHorn

According to Nehemiah 6:15 the wall of Jerusalem that had remained in a state of disrepair since the time Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed it in 586 B.C. was completely restored in fifty-two days. The letters of protection and provision which Nehemiah had secured from Artaxerxes (2:7-8) together with the swift completion of the project may give the impression that the people had no problems along the way. The fact is that they faced great opposition throughout the duration of the building process. Today's lesson shows how God's people can cope with hostility while continuing to do his work.

Progress and Plots

(4:6-8). The work on the wall progressed rapidly due to one factor, "the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6). Prior to this the people had faced ridicule (4:1-3) from Sanballat and Tobiah, who are identified as "governors of the province beyond the river" (Neh. 2:9-10). When these and other governors heard that the Jews were undaunted and that the work was progressing they became angry (4:7). Their anger resulted in a plot to join forces against the Jews, engage them in battle, and throw the city of Jerusalem into confusion (4:8). The ultimate goal was to keep God's people defenseless and inferior



VanHorn

to their neighbors.

Precaution and Persistence (4:15-18).

The plot to disrupt the work became known to the Jews. Nehemiah stationed armed forces at the weakest points along the wall (4:13). He also encouraged them to rely on the superior might of the Lord and to fight for their brethren and their homes (4:14). Work quickly resumed on the wall, but was hindered somewhat by the necessity of half the work force having to serve as soldiers (4:16). Those working on the wall carried a sword at their side and were ready at the sound of the trumpet to shift from being construction workers to being combatants (4:18). That Nehemiah relied upon God is evident from the statements "that God had frustrated their plan" (4:15) and "Our God will fight for us" (4:20).

Interestingly, Nehemiah did not just sit back and ask God to fight or to build for the people. Instead he encouraged and insisted that the people build and fight for themselves since God was with them. The best way for God's people to cope with hostility is to rely on the Lord by faith and to do all that is humanly possible to advance his work. Through prayer God grants wisdom to his people to know how to deal with those who are opposed to him.

Plans and Performance (4:19-23). Nehemiah realized that the people were scattered around the city working on the wall in various places. The combined forces of the governors surrounding Jerusalem could quickly overwhelm the meager Jewish forces at any given section of the wall. Nehemiah used the trumpet blast as a signal to rally his people to the point of attack (4:19). This simple signal allowed the

work to continue on all areas of the wall while providing a measure of assurance and security for all of the workers. "So we labored at the work" (4:21) serves to remind the reader that in spite of hostility toward them the Jews were persistent in their efforts to fortify Jerusalem. All people were on twenty-four hour alert. Day by day one arose to the twin tasks of building and defending. Nehemiah said, "none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon in his hand" (4:23). Fifty-two days later the wall was finished. The completed wall provided sufficient defense thus enabling the tired laborers to rest. In spite of hostile opposition, the work of the Lord was accomplished! The old saying seems appropriate here, "Pray as if everything depends on God; work as if everything depends on us."

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

Are you listening, God?

Psalms 66:18-20; Luke 1:5-7, 13, 17; 2 Cor.

12:7-9; James 1:5-7

By Geneva England

According to a recent Mississippi casino study, horse betting would "increase the level of excitement and electricity to be found in a casino." What a shame man chooses betting over praying to provide excitement! I choose prayer! What about you? Our Lord waits and listens!

What a glorious privilege the saved have to pray to God, knowing that he is listening! We are invited to come boldly to the throne of grace for mercy and grace (Heb. 4:6). This exclusive right belongs to those walking in close fellowship with God. Peter admonishes, "For the eyes of the Lord are

over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil (1 Peter 3:12). Yet the Lord is gracious to the lost when they seek forgiveness: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Basis for Rejection (Psalm 66:18-20). Cherishing sin separates the believer from fellowship with God. Believers commit sins daily, but these should never be willful, prideful expressions of self-dependence. The Psalmist knew that God would not listen to his prayers if he harbored open sin in his heart, such as worldly, fleshly



England

desires. When he purged these from his life, God then listened.

Is God listening today? Yes. But we must wait upon his timing. He responds on the basis of his righteousness, not ours.

A Matter of God's Timing (Luke 1:5-7, 13, 17).

God timed the birth of John the Baptist to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. His parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, had prayed for a son, not knowing he would prepare the way for the Messiah. When Zacharias wavered in believing God's promise for a son because of their advanced age, the Angel Gabriel struck him dumb until the birth "at God's appointed season." Only God's timetable shapes the flow of human history.

God's answer may be Yes, No, or Wait, my timing is best. Our submission involves praying regularly and accepting God's timing. Jesus himself

said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

Grace for a Greater Purpose

(2 Cor. 12:7-9). When Christians face insults, persecutions, or illnesses, they often ask God, "Why me?" That's exactly opposite to Paul's reaction. He accepted his "thorn in the flesh," as well as stoning, imprisonment, and slanders as suffering "for Christ's sake." He remembered his Lord's comforting voice: "My grace is sufficient for you" (v.9). Yes, even the weakest human can become a devout spokesman through the Lord's provisions.

Like Paul, many Christian followers use their infirmities to make an impact for Christ. Paul didn't become rebellious or depressed after praying three times for God to heal his body; rather, he pressed forward with great vigor! What a great saint he was!

Necessity of Believing (James 1:5-7). Are you the wind-tossed wave, the storm-

driven seed, the disappearing snowflake? Or are you a rock-solid saint, grounded in the word of God, believing in the only begotten Son of God for your salvation? James' instructions on how to pray effectively will help us maintain a close fellowship with God: pray in faith (1:6), within his will (4:2), and in the name of Jesus (5:14). Selfish requests should never be uttered!

James also reminds us to ask specifically for wisdom (making godly choices). In order to act prudently, we must use information wisely. Spiritual wisdom flourishes when God is the basis of our thoughts and actions. The old adage "You are what you read" conveys much truth. Therefore, we need to ask God for wisdom regularly so that we can be a light in this sinful world. James warns sinners: "... weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you" (5:1).

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

OCT. 1, 1997
OCT. 31, 1997

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On October 30, 1997 the Baptist Children's Village enjoyed a Fall Festival sponsored by Nenamoosha Social Tribe, Swannanoa Social Tribe, Laguna Social Tribe and Civitan Men's Club all from Mississippi College. The organizations raised funds that made the Fall Festival possible. These groups along with Mississippi College BSU students who regularly help with Wednesday night services at BCV, ran all the booths. The BCV staff and residents as well as the MC students had a fun night of games and fellowship.



Brett Causey, Mississippi College BSU president, enjoyed a game of basketball with his BCV pal.

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Happy Thanksgiving



BCV residents enjoyed being velcroed to a wall by participating in the "spider crawl".



Mississippi College students found themselves in a bind as they played a game of Twister with BCV residents.

New LBC president exhorts seminarians

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "The greatest people you'll find have four words on their foreheads: 'I will not quit,'" the new president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC) told students in a Nov. 5 chapel service at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

Bob Anderson was elected president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Nov. 11.

The founder and president of Antioch Affection Ministries, an organization designed to care for ministers and churches in crisis, Anderson has seen both

individuals and churches devastated after a ministry has fallen apart.

"Unless these ministers get the restoration and personal ministry they need, they will not finish well," he said.

Anderson gave five principles to help ministers "hang in there" through life's struggles and the stress of ministry, encouraging stu-

dents to refuse to give up and to be intent on finishing well.

He said he first learned the importance of finishing well when his high school track team lost the state championship in the final 20 yards of an 880 relay race.

"I learned a lesson that has stayed with me all my life: It's one thing to start well, but it's oh so important to finish well.

Citing Exodus 3, Anderson said God demonstrated for Moses five principles to help him complete the task set before him:

- ◆ God is always present. Even while Moses was in the wilderness, God knew where he was and God spoke to him, Anderson said. "The greatest secret I ever learned is that God is present with me in the good times and the bad times, and our Lord is always present with you."

- ◆ God provides power. "God wants to give us power," Anderson said. Just as the miracle of the unconsumed burning bush attracted Moses' attention, showed him God's power, and compelled him to act on behalf of his people, "we have the power to change our world." God wants to pour his power through the church, now the spiritual body of Christ on earth, Anderson said.

- ◆ God is a God of possibility. "It is possible for people to have a new beginning, a second chance," Anderson said, for through God's strength and plan Moses recovered from failure to lead the people of Israel out of bondage.

A positive attitude is a vital characteristic for the minister wanting to see possibilities become realities, Anderson said.

"Our churches will be filled to capacity when they're filled

with happy people, and it starts with the pastor. A joyful church starts with the minister being happy," he said.

- ◆ God encourages persistence. Just as the burning bush would not be consumed, God was saying, "Moses don't quit," Anderson said.

Ministers sometimes will still have the feeling to leave the ministry, "but they need to stick with it to the end."

- ◆ God wants ministers to take personal responsibility. Moses had a ministry God wanted him to do, and "God is calling all of us to serve him and to serve him with all of our hearts," Anderson said.

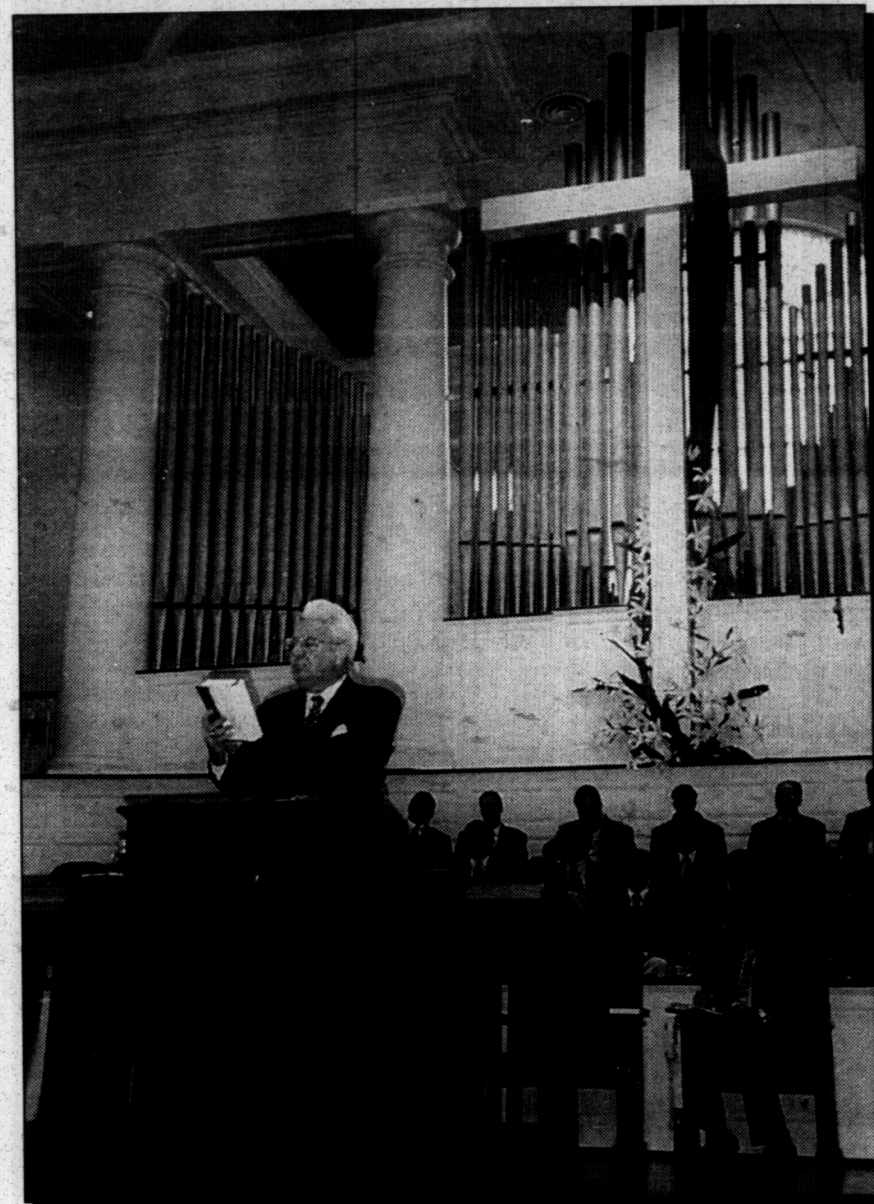
"The greatest words in the Bible are in John 14:13, 'Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do.' That verse has helped me hang in there and not quit," he said.

For the past 22 years, Anderson has been helping ministers find healing and hope after devastating vocational and personal failures. He became pastor of Parkview Church in Baton Rouge, La., in 1974, and started caring for ministers in distress soon after.

"I began the ministry when I was a pastor by bringing (onto the staff) ministers who had been terminated ... , helping them dump their baggage and get back into the ministry," he said.

Anderson has been leading Antioch Affections Ministries full time since 1996, when he was overwhelmed by the increasing number of requests for help. He now devotes his full attention to responding to ministers who have experienced forced terminations, divorce, and other crises.

Named for the church at



DON'T QUIT — New LBC president Bob Anderson, reading from Exodus 3, exhorted New Orleans Seminary students Nov. 11 to persevere through the struggles they will encounter in their future ministry. Anderson spoke in Landrum chapel on the seminary campus. (NOBTS photo)

Antioch that restored John Mark to the ministry and that was the base for the mission trips of Paul and Barnabas after their separation, Antioch

Affection Ministries has helped more than 250 ministers from every kind of church staff position get back into the ministry.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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CVZIFVM, NB JVSLEVV
JIVGCIVM, CZGC MLG
ULW XCLHVM GCV KLLI
LT GCHR DLISW IRXC RM
TZRGC, ZMW CVRIH LT
GCV FRMUWLN DCRXC
CV CZGV KILNRHVW GL
GCVN GCZG SLEV CRN?

YZNVH GDL: TREV

Clue: H equals S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Fourteen.

Miss America's views prompt concerns from Baptists promoting sex abstinence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — As Miss America, Kate Shindle will be visiting a different city every other day, logging 20,000 miles a month.

The key focus of Shindle's appearances across the country will be AIDS prevention, the "platform" she adopted in entering the Miss America pageant.

That platform, however, began raising concerns in the Christian community the day after the 20-year-old college senior from Illinois won her crown and its \$40,000 scholarship Sept. 13.

While saying abstinence is the only foolproof method for preventing the transmission of sexual disease, Shindle noted in a news conference it may not be realistic to think that teens will refrain from premarital sexual relations.

"We need to recognize that, and not try to convince ourselves that we can talk kids out of having sex," Shindle was quoted as saying, "but rather ... talk to them about the best ways they can make their behavior safer."

Asked for reaction to Shindle's point of view, one of the organizers of True Love Waits, the popular campaign for sexual abstinence until marriage, said he hopes Miss America's travels will give her a new perspective.

"During her travels this year, I hope Kate has opportunity to meet many of the hundreds of thousands of teenagers who have chosen abstinence until marriage," said Richard Ross of the Baptist Sunday School Board, based in Nashville, Tenn. "That will help her discover that a clear call to abstinence from leaders is not only morally right, it is also a practical strategy."

"The swelling numbers of True Love Waits youth demonstrate that a good percentage of the teenage population is more interested in God's best than a latex crutch," said Ross, who also is a youth minister at a Nashville-area church.

C. Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., suggested Shindle use her role "to encourage youth to take the moral high ground, not wallow in the moral morass of our sex-addicted culture."

"Using Miss Shindle's safe so-called sex message, we could say, 'We can't talk kids out of playing with pipe bombs, we just need to talk to them about ways they can make safer bombs,'" Mitchell said.